

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 as follows:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/168,491, which was filed on October 21, 2002, which is in turn a continuation-in-part of (a) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/514,437, which was filed on February 28, 2000, now abandoned, and (b) International Patent Application PCT/EP00/12878, which was filed December 15, 2000. The present application is also claiming priority of German Patent Application DE 199 62 144.6, filed December 22, 1999.